UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS DALLAS DIVISION

Marchell O'Brien, : Civil Action No.: 3:23-cv-226

Plaintiff,

v.

Advance America d/b/a AARC, LLC,

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Marchell O'Brien, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

JURISDICTION

- 1. This action arises out of Defendant's repeated violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq. (the "TCPA").
- 2. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that the Defendant transacts business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

PARTIES

- 3. The Plaintiff, Marchell O'Brien ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Liberty, Indiana, and is a "person" as the term is defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).
- 4. Defendant Advance America d/b/a AARC, LLC ("Advance America"), is a Texas business entity with an address of 13531 Montfort Drive, Suite 121, Dallas, Texas 75240, and is a "person" as the term is defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).

FACTS

- 5. In or around August 2022, Advance America began calling Plaintiff's cellular telephone, number 765-xxx-2605, using an artificial or prerecorded voice.
- 6. When Plaintiff answered calls from Advance America, she heard a prerecorded message requesting a call back.
- 7. On or about August 17, 2022, Plaintiff spoke with Advance America and requested that all calls to her cease.
- 8. In complete disregard of Plaintiff's cease request, Advance America continued to place automated calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number.

<u>COUNT I</u> <u>VIOLATIONS OF THE TCPA - 47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq.</u>

- 9. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 10. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant called Plaintiff on her cellular telephone using a prerecorded or artificial voice.
- 11. Defendant placed automated calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone despite knowing that it lacked consent to place such calls. As such, each call placed to Plaintiff was made in knowing and/or willful violation of the TCPA, and subject to treble damages pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C).
- 12. The telephone number called by Defendant was assigned to a cellular telephone service pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1).
- 13. The calls from Defendant to Plaintiff were not placed for "emergency purposes" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(i).

- 14. As a result of each of Defendant's negligent violations of the TCPA, Plaintiff is entitled to an award of \$500.00 in statutory damages for each call placed in violation of the TCPA pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).
- 15. As a result of each of Defendant's knowing and/or willful violations of the TCPA, Plaintiff is entitled to an award of treble damages in an amount up to \$1,500.00 for each and every violation of the TCPA pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) and 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against Defendant:

- A. Statutory damages of \$500.00 for each violation determined to be negligent pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B);
- B. Treble damages for each violation determined to be willful and/or knowing pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C); and
- C. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: January 30, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

By /s/ Jody B. Burton

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